

**Town of Amherst**  
**UNOFFICIAL RECORD OF VOTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**

Monday, September 13, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Councilors Participating Remotely: Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schreiber, Steinberg

Councilors Absent: DuMont, Schoen, Swartz

Others Participating Remotely: Town Manager Paul Bockelman, Clerk of the Council Athena O’Keeffe, Town Clerk Susan Audette, Minute-Taker Emily Reardon

**When remote participation is used, all votes will be taken by roll call.**

Per MGL Chapter 30A Section 20(f), this meeting is being recorded and broadcast by Amherst Media.

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President Griesemer called the Town Council meeting to order at 6:31 pm  
President Griesemer declared the Town Council meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm

**5. Consent Agenda**

Consent Agenda: The following items were selected because they were considered to be routine and it was reasonable to expect they would pass with no controversy. To remove an item from the consent agenda for discussion later in the meeting, ask that it be removed when the President lists the consent agenda items. The request to remove an item from the consent agenda does not require a second.

**MOVED:** To move the following items, and the printed motions thereunder and approve those items as a single unit:

- Suspension of Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.4 for the following agenda items:
  - 8.a.(2) November 2, 2021 Town Election Warrant
  - 8.a.(3) Policy Regarding Electioneering During Early and Absentee Voting for All Elections
  - 8.d. Audit Firm Selection
- 6.a. Adoption of the 2021 Puerto Rican Heritage Day Proclamation
- 6.b. Adoption of the 2021 India and Pakistan 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Proclamation
- 9.a.(1-4) Approval of the following Town Manager Appointments:
  - Recreation Director
  - Elementary School Building Committee
  - ~~African Heritage Reparations Assembly~~ Removed by Hanneke
  - Community Preservation Act Committee
- 11.a-e. Approval of the following Town Council Meeting minutes:
  - January 28, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting minutes – Joint meeting with Town Services and Outreach Committee

- March 3, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting minutes – Jones Library Public Forum
- March 6, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting minutes – Jones Library Public Forum
- May 21, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting minutes
- August 23, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Ross

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 10-0, with 3 absent (Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted Yes; DuMont, Schoen, and Swartz were absent)

**6. Resolutions and Proclamations**

**a. 2021 Puerto Rican Heritage Day Proclamation**

**VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA:**

**MOVED:** To adopt the 2021 Puerto Rican Heritage Day Proclamation, as presented.

**b. 2021 India and Pakistan 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Proclamation**

**VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA:**

**MOVED:** To adopt the 2021 India and Pakistan 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Proclamation, as presented.

**8. Action Items**

**a. Elections**

**(1) Early Voting Locations, Dates, and Hours**

**MOVED:** To hold in-person early voting to be located in the First Floor Meeting Room of Town Hall for the following dates and times:

- Monday, October 25, 2021; 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
- Tuesday, October 26, 2021; 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
- Wednesday, October 27, 2021; 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
- Thursday, October 28, 2021; 8:30 am to 8:00 pm
- Friday, October 29, 2021; 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Ryan

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 10-0, with 3 absent (Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted Yes; DuMont, Schoen, and Swartz were absent)

**(2) November 2, 2021 Town Election Warrant**

**VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA:**

**MOVED:** To suspend Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.4 for the current agenda item.

**MOVED:** To authorize the warrant for the Regular Town Election on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, with polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the following locations:

- District 1, Voting Precinct 1: North Zion Korean Church, Church Hall, 1193 North Pleasant Street
- District 2, Voting Precinct 2: Amherst- Pelham Regional High School, 21 Mattoon Street
- District 1, Voting Precinct 3: Immanuel Lutheran Church, 867 North Pleasant Street
- District 3, Voting Precinct 4: Amherst-Pelham Regional High School, 21 Mattoon Street
- District 4, Voting Precinct 5: Bangs Community Center, 70 Boltwood Walk
- District 2, Voting Precinct 6: Fort River School, 70 South East Street
- District 5, Voting Precinct 7: Crocker Farm School, 280 West Street
- District 5, Voting Precinct 8: Munson Memorial Library, South Amherst Common, 1046 South East Street
- District 4, Voting Precinct 9: Wildwood School, 71 Strong Street
- District 3, Voting Precinct 10: Amherst- Pelham Regional High School, 21 Mattoon Street

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: De Angelis

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 10-0, with 3 absent (Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted Yes; DuMont, Schoen, and Swartz were absent)

**(3) Policy Regarding Electioneering During Early and Absentee Voting for All Elections**

**VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA:**

**MOVED:** To suspend Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.4 for the current agenda item.

**MOVED:** To adopt the following Policy Regarding Electioneering During Early and Absentee Voting for All Elections, as recommended and approved by the Town Clerk and Town Manager:

No poster, card, handbill, placard, picture or circular intended to influence the action of the voter, other than those expressly authorized by M.G.L. c. 54, § 65, shall be posted, exhibited, circulated or distributed in the Town Clerk's office, in the building where the Town Clerk's office is located, on the walls thereof, on the premises on which the Town offices at 4 Boltwood Avenue stand, or within one hundred and fifty feet of either of the building entrance doors.

No person shall collect signatures upon petitions, referendum petitions or nomination papers within one hundred and fifty feet from the building entrance door to a polling place.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Steinberg

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 10-0, with 3 absent (Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted Yes; DuMont, Schoen, and Swartz were absent)

**b. Amendment to Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 5.2 Public Hearings**

First read – no action.

**c. Town Council Policy on Making Recommendations for Town Council  
Appointments to Multiple-Member Bodies**

First discussion – no action.

**d. Audit Firm Selection**

**VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA:**

**MOVED:** To suspend Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.4 for the current agenda item.

**MOVED:** To direct the Town Manager to award and execute a one-year contract with four one-year renewals to Melanson, as recommended by the Town Manager Audit Recommendation memo to the Town Council, dated September 8, 2021.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: De Angelis

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 10-0, with 3 absent (Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted Yes; DuMont, Schoen, and Swartz were absent)

**MOVED:** To dissolve the Audit Request for Proposals Ad Hoc Committee.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: De Angelis

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 10-0, with 3 absent (Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted Yes; DuMont, Schoen, and Swartz were absent)

**9. Appointments**

**a. Town Manager Appointments**

**(1) Recreation Director**

**VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOVED:** In accordance with Charter section 2.11(a), to approve the Town Manager appointment of Reynaud L. Harp as Recreation Director, as filed with the Town Clerk on September 7, 2021, and recommended by the Town Services and Outreach Committee report of September 13, 2021.

**(2) Elementary School Building Committee**

**VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOVED:** To approve the Town Manager appointment of Michelle Hernandez to the Elementary School Building Committee, as filed with the Town Clerk on August 24, 2021, and recommended by the Town Services and Outreach Committee report of September 13, 2021, effective immediately, and for a term to last the length of the MSBA process.

**(3) African Heritage Reparations Assembly**

**MOVED:** To approve the following Town Manager appointments to the African Heritage Reparations Assembly, as filed with the Town Clerk on September 8, 2021, and recommended by the Town Services and Outreach Committee report of September 13, 2021, effective immediately:

For terms to expire June 30, 2022:

- Jamileh Jemison, self-identifies as African American
- Heather Lord, a current or former member of an Amherst elected body, self-identifies as Black, Indigenous, and White
- Alexis Reed, self-identifies as half African-American and half European-American
- Irvin Rhodes, current or former member of an Amherst elected body, self-identifies as Black
- Amilcar Shabazz, current or former member of an Amherst elected body, self-identifies as African
- Michele Miller, representative of Reparations for Amherst (R4A)

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Bahl-Milne

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 10-0, with 3 absent (Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted Yes; DuMont, Schoen, and Swartz were absent)

**(4) Community Preservation Act Committee**

**VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOVED:** To approve the following Town Manager appointments to the Community Preservation Act Committee, as filed with the Town Clerk on September 9, 2021, and recommended by the Town Services and Outreach Committee report of September 13, 2021, effective immediately:

- For terms to expire June 30, 2022:
  - Hetty Startup, Historical Commission representative
  - Sarah Marshall, Recreation Commission representative

**b. Town Council Appointments**

**(1) Energy and Climate Action Committee**

No action.

**(2) Liaison to the Council on Aging**

No action.

**11.a-e. Approval of Minutes**

**VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOVED:** To adopt the following Town Council Meeting minutes, as presented:

- January 28, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting minutes – Joint meeting with Town Services and Outreach Committee
- March 3, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting minutes – Jones Library Public Forum
- March 6, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting minutes – Jones Library Public Forum
- May 21, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting minutes
- August 23, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes

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